Course Material No.5

ROK Market Opportunity: Prepared Foodstuffs

Course 5: ROK Market Opportunity – Prepared Foodstuffs aims to provide a comprehensive market overview of prepared foodstuffs market in the Republic of Korea (ROK).

This Course focuses on the 5 major products with high export potential from Central America to ROK: **Refined Sugar**(HS Code 1701990), **Snacks**(HS Code 190410), **Bread**(HS Code 190590), **Food Preparations**(HS Code 210690), and **Animal Feed**(HS Code 230990).

By the end of the course, learners will be able to:

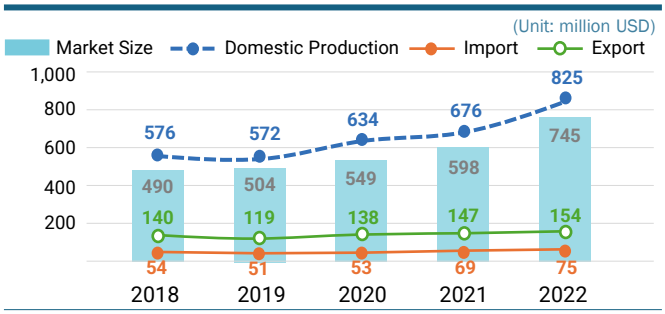
- Gain a deep understanding of the Prepared Foodstuff market in Korea
- Identify major market drivers such as supply and demand patterns;
- Understand the regulatory requirements for market entry;

REFINED SUGAR

Key Facts

- While the annual import volume of refined sugar between 2018 to 2022 remained steady around 1.2million tons, indicating stable consumption or production levels.
  - On the other hand, annual refined sugar market size in value has increased from 490 million USD in 2018 to 745 million USD in 2022.
  - This notable increase in value suggests that while the demand for refined sugar is stable, the market experienced significant price appreciation, leading to dramatic increase in overall market value in the past 5 years.
- In ROK refined sugar market, approximately 1,365,000 tons are domestically produced every year, which surpass export and import size with a large gap.
  - Out of the total ROK refined sugar market, the domestic production accounted for 111.5% in 2022.
  - While imports have remained relatively low accounting for 9.2% of the market, Exports accounted for a meaningful portion of the total market volume and value at 20.7% each in 2022.
- It is implied that ROK domestically has a capacity to produce refined sugar to meet the large demand both internally and externally. Also, this indicates that ROK is a net exporter of refined sugar, with a considerable portion of domestically produced or imported sugar being exported to other markets.
- Thailand dominates the refined sugar import market in Korea, holding a significant share of around 110,000 tons annually. The market remains highly concentrated, with only a few major suppliers actively engaged in the ROK market.

ROK refined sugar market in value (2018-2022)



* Source : Author

Import volume of Sugar per country (2018-2022)

(Unit: Ton)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Thailand	**81,316**	**88,021**	**77,566**	**75,865**	**94,049**
Malaysia	**15,062**	**12,715**	**15,777**	**15,218**	**8,013**
Brazil	**3,453**	**2,766**	**2,503**	**3,472**	**3,855**
UAE	280	-	690	6,584	1,703
USA	761	868	919	1,313	1,300
India	333	599	916	440	500
France	2,228	5,385	1,095	1,397	423
Others	7,659	2,524	5,030	3,314	4,240
Total	107,329	112,878	104,496	107,603	110,769

* Source : Korean Statistical Office(K-STAT)

- Under K-CA FTA, Central American exporters benefit from significant tariff reductions on refined sugar. Full tariff elimination is expected by 2034 for Costa Rica and Nicaragua, 2035 for El Salvador and Honduras, 2036 for Panama, and 2039 for Guatemala.
  - In contrast, Thailand, the largest exporter to Korea, has a duty rate that remains without a set timeline for reduction, providing a comparative advantage to CA exporters over time.

Tariff on HS Code 170199 as of 2024

Country	HS Code	Current rate(2024)	Elimination of custom duties
Costa Rica	170199.0000	18.7%	2034.01.01
El Salvador	170199.0000	20.6%	2035.01.01
Panama	170199.0000	22.5%	2036.01.01
Honduras	170199.0000	18.7%	2035.01.01
Nicaragua	170199.0000	18.7%	2034.01.01
Guatemala	170199.0000	28.2%	2039.01.01
Thailand	170199.0000	40%	N/A

* Source : K-CA FTA text, FTA Korea

- Korea's growing health awareness is fueling demand for low-sugar and sugar-free products. Minimally refined sugar is also considered as a healthy alternative.
- Despite this consumer trend to reduce the consumption of sugar, sugar is still an essential substance for Koreans' daily meal diet. The ROK government intervenes in domestic market to regulate and stabilize sugar prices along with other priority Agri products. In this regard, the import volume and price of refined sugar are protected in the ROK market.
  - When global sugar price reached the highest level in 2022, in order to stabilize the domestic sugar prices, the Korean government applied zero tariff on 50,000 tons of refined sugar in the first half of year 2024, and 5% tariff rate on another 50,000 tons in the second half of 2024.
  - As for the raw sugar, basic tariff rate of 3% will be fully eliminated for all imported volume.

Market Insights

- ROK refined sugar market presents a complex landscape for Central American exporters, with both opportunities and challenges.
- A significant opportunity arises from the K-CA FTA, which will allow tariff-free access to Korea starting in 2034, giving Central American sugar exporters a potential price advantage.
- Korea's market shows a preference for raw sugar imports over refined sugar, and market entry is challenging due to the dominance of a few large companies.
- Despite these challenges, the growing demand for healthier, minimally processed sugars, presents an opportunity. To succeed, exporters could position their products as healthier alternatives to traditional sugars, while being mindful of strong competitors like Thailand and the rising popularity of sugar substitutes.

Strengths

- K-CA FTA offers tariff-free access

Weaknesses

- High entry barrier due to raw sugar focus
- Dominance of a few large companies
- ROK government's protection of imported refined sugar volume and domestic sugar price in the ROK market

Opportunities

- Increasing demand for minimally processed sugars

Threats

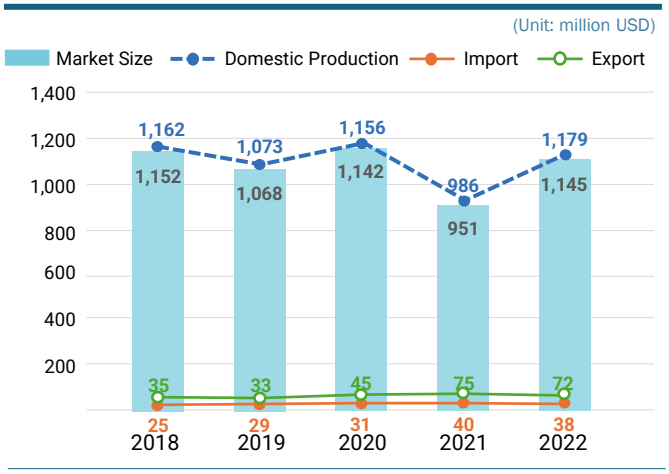
- Strong competition from Thailand
- Growing popularity of sugar substitutes

SNACKS

Key Facts

- The value of ROK's snack market was 1.15 billion USD in 2018 and slightly declined to 1.145 billion USD in 2022, showing a stable market with an expected annual growth rate of 1-2% over the next five years.
  - The demand in ROK snack market is largely driven by domestic production, indicating minimal reliance on imported products with only around 3.3% of the total market's value in 2022.
- Belgium, China, and the USA are key suppliers to Korea's snack market, contributing to 76% of the total import volume.
  - Belgium holds the largest share due to the favorable conditions from the Korea-EU FTA.

ROK snack market in value (2018-2022)



* Source : Author

Import volume of snacks per country (2018-2022)

(Unit: Ton)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Belgium	**2,365**	**3,328**	**3,438**	**4,620**	**4,131**
China	**2,158**	**3,427**	**3,171**	**3,571**	**3,502**
USA	**1,270**	**1,204**	**1,495**	**1,434**	**1,184**
Taiwan	308	265	291	613	639
Italy	323	324	494	415	589
Germany	296	357	239	307	239
Australia	80	45	51	257	220
Others	927	935	874	1,117	1,092
Total	**7,727**	**9,885**	**10,059**	**12,334**	**11,596**

* Source : Korean Statistical Office(K-STAT)

- Starting in 2028, Costa Rica and Honduras will benefit from full tariff elimination on snack products under the K-CA FTA. El Salvador already enjoys a 0% tariff on corn flakes and corn chips, while Panama's tariffs will reduce to zero by 2030. Nicaragua will see similar reductions, and Guatemala will reach full tariff elimination by 2033.

Tariff on HS Code 190410 as of 2024

Country	HS Code	Product	Current rate(2024)	Elimination of custom duties
Costa Rica	190410.1000	Corn flakes	2.1%	2028.01.01
	190410.2000	Corn chips	2.1%	2028.01.01
	190410.9000	Other grains	0%	2019.11.01
El Salvador	190410.1000	Corn flakes	0%	2020.01.01
	190410.2000	Corn chips	0%	2020.01.01
	190410.9000	Other grains	0%	2020.01.01
Panama	190410.1000	Corn flakes	3.2%	2030.01.01
	190410.2000	Corn chips	3.2%	2030.01.01
	190410.9000	Other grains	0%	2021.01.01
Honduras	190410.1000	Corn flakes	2.1%	2028.01.01
	190410.2000	Corn chips	2.1%	2028.01.01
	190410.9000	Other grains	0%	2019.01.01
Nicaragua	190410.1000	Corn flakes	2.1%	2028.01.01
	190410.2000	Corn chips	2.1%	2028.01.01
	190410.9000	Other grains	0%	2019.01.01
Guatemala	190410.1000	Corn flakes	4.86%	2033.01.01
	190410.2000	Corn chips	4.86%	2033.01.01
	190410.9000	Other grains	0%	-
China	190410.1000	Corn flakes	0%	2024.01.01
	190410.2000	Corn chips	0%	2024.01.01
	190410.9000	Other grains	0%	2024.01.01

* Source : K-CA FTA text, FTA Korea

❖ There is a shift toward healthy and traditional snacks targeting older consumers, aligning with trends of retro culture and healthier lifestyles.

➢ The cereal segment within snacks is growing, with granola and oatmeal gaining popularity due to their health benefits and changing eating habits.

Example of ROK healthy and traditional snacks

Low/zero sugar, healthy snacks

Korean Traditional snacks

* Source: Korea Economic TV. (2023.04); JoongAng Ilbo.(2022.04)

Market Insights

❖ The Korean snack market is stable and expected to reach 3.64 billion USD by 2026. In 2022, domestic production (1.18 billion USD) was 30 times larger than imports (38 million USD), creating high entry barriers.

❖ However, rising demand for imported snacks and the growing popularity of health-oriented products like granola offer new opportunities.

➢ Supermarkets like Homeplus are expanding their assortment of imported snacks, with sales of imported confectionery items rising by 24% in 2020 compared to the previous year.

Strengths

- Snack market projected to grow to 3.64B by 2026
- K-CA FTA offers tariff-free access

Weaknesses

- Market dominated by domestic products
- High entry barrier & costly logistics
- Declining youth population

Opportunities

- Growing value of imported snacks
- Demand for health-oriented products like granola

Threats

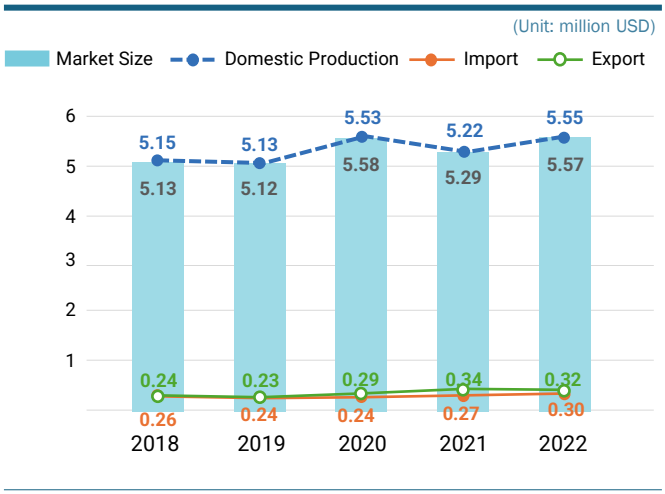
- High competition & need for constant innovation
- Strict food safety regulations for imports

BREAD

Key Facts

- Korean bread market is growing as younger consumers adopt Western diets. Rising demand for gluten-free and whole-grain options offers opportunities for differentiation.
- The value of ROK's bread market remained relatively steady, growing slightly from 5.15 million USD in 2018 to 5.55 million USD in 2022, with an expected annual growth rate of 1-2% over the next five years.
  - While imports represents a small share of the market at 3.7% in 2022, they have shown a steady increase in value, indicating a gradual rise in demand for imported bread products.
- The main suppliers of bread to ROK are China, Malaysia, and the USA, contributing to 59% of total bread imports in 2022.

ROK bread market in value



* Source : Author

Import volume of Bread per country (2018-2022)

(Unit: Ton)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
China	**13,557**	**13,840**	**13,091**	**14,441**	**19,324**
Malaysia	**13,490**	**11,505**	**11,407**	**9,980**	**11,202**
USA	**10,307**	**9,788**	**9,371**	**9,412**	**9,618**
Vietnam	5,618	3,998	5,527	6,638	8,187
France	1,724	1,797	2,016	4,674	2,688
Italy	1,923	1,672	1,952	1,785	1,744
Indonesia	1,532	1,723	1,868	1,817	1,597
Others	15,540	14,033	13,287	13,902	13,227
Total	**63,691**	**58,356**	**58,519**	**62,649**	**67,587**

* Source : Korean Statistical Office(K-STAT)

- Under K-CA FTA, tariffs on bread are fully eliminated for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, offering 0% rates. Panama's tariff will be removed by 2025, and Guatemala's by 2028.

Tariff on HS Code 190590 as of 2024

Country	HS Code	Product	Current rate(2024)	Elimination of custom duties
Costa Rica	190590.1010	Bread	0%	2023.01.01
El Salvador	190590.1010	Bread	0%	2022.01.01
Panama	190590.1010	Bread	1.6%	2025.01.01
Honduras	190590.1010	Bread	0%	2023.01.01
Nicaragua	190590.1010	Bread	0%	2023.01.01
Guatemala	190590.1010	Bread	6.4%	2028.01.01
China	190590.1010	Bread	0%	2019.01.01
Malaysia	190590.1010	Bread	0%	-
USA	190590.1010	Bread	0%	2021.01.01

* Source : K-CA FTA text, FTA Korea

- Bread consumption in Korea is increasing as younger, single households adopt a 'western-style' diet. This shift from traditional rice-based meals to bread-based options has led to growing sales in bakery shops, convenience stores, and supermarkets.
  - Consumers are showing a preference for healthier bread choices, such as gluten-free and whole-grain options, and are drawn to fresh ingredients like natural yeast, seasonal fruits, and nuts.

Example of whole-grain breads

Whole-grain bread

(China) Chen Yi Wu Yu Chia Seed Whole Wheat Toast

(Sweden) WASA Whole Grain Crispbread

(Italy) MISURA whole wheat Donut

(ROK) Whole Wheat Campagne with walnut

Example of gluten free, low sugar, low fat breads

Bread with Gluten Free, low-sugar, low-fat

(Canada) Dempster's Chickpea Tortillas

(USA) Ezekiel Flourless Sesame Sprouted Grain Bread

(Australia) Mt. Elephant Pancake Mix

(USA) Outer Aisle Original Cauliflower Sandwich Thins

Market Insights

- The market presents challenges due to long shipping times, high transport costs, and low awareness of Central American bread, requiring strong differentiation to compete with reasonably priced domestic fresh bread.
- For Central American exporters targeting the Korean bread market, leveraging the growing demand for home baking products like frozen dough and healthier bread ingredients is crucial.

Strengths

- Rising popularity of Western-style bread
- K-CA FTA offers tariff-free access

Weaknesses

- High logistics costs & long transport time
- Low consumer awareness of CA bread

Opportunities

- Growing demand for home baking products and frozen dough
- Interest in healthy ingredients and diverse flavors

Threats

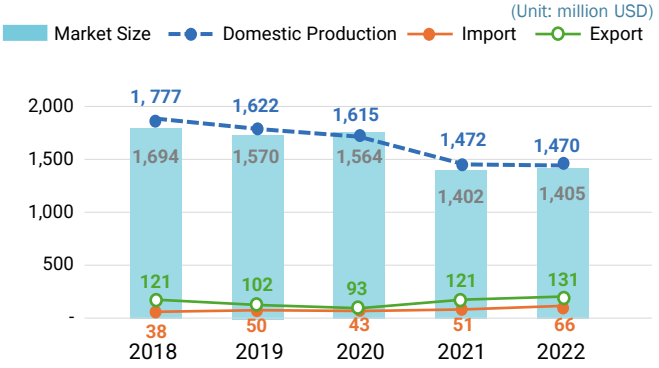
- Competitive and saturated market
- High consumer expectations for quality

FOOD PREPARATION

Key Facts

- Korean food preparation market is shrinking but sees a gradual increase in demand for health-conscious products, particularly zero-calorie and zero-sugar beverages.
- The market size remained steady with small decrease from 1,694 million USD in 2018 to 1,405 million USD in 2022, with an annual growth rate of -4.46.
  - In the ROK market, domestic production dominates the domestic market with about 50,000 tons are annually exported overseas.
  - Despite the dominance of domestic production, imports have steadily increased in value, from 38 million USD in 2018 to 66 million USD in 2022, indicating a slow but consistent rise in demand for imported food preparations.
- Malaysia, France, and the USA are the leading suppliers of food preparations to Korea, together accounting for 62% of imports in 2022. Malaysia benefits significantly from its tariff-free status under the FTA.

ROK food preparation market in value (2018-2022)



* Source : Author

Import volume of food preparation per country (2018-2022)

(Unit: Ton)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Malaysia	**2,027**	**1,831**	**1,593**	**3,521**	**5,987**
France	**1,705**	**2,189**	**1,830**	**2,291**	**2,769**
USA	**2,229**	**2,296**	**1,660**	**2,098**	**2,297**
Thailand	480	878	840	1,455	2,185
Taiwan	787	2,140	1,344	1,044	1,207
Vietnam	59	245	386	603	1,011
Italy	364	415	325	332	424
Spain	76	138	213	237	368
China	565	320	228	139	364
Others	1,132	1,162	962	1,062	1,030
Total	**9,423**	**11,613**	**9,381**	**12,781**	**17,643**

* Source : Korean Statistical Office(K-STAT)

- The CA countries have a comparative advantage due to lower tariffs on food preparations under K-CA FTA.
  - Tariffs have already been eliminated for Costa Rica, Honduras, and Nicaragua, with full elimination expected for El Salvador by 2024, Panama by 2025, and Guatemala by 2028.

Tariff on HS Code 210690 as of 2024

Country	HS Code	Product	Current rate(2024)	Elimination of custom duties
Costa Rica	210690.1020	Beverage base of perfumed fruits	0%	2023.01.01
	210690.2000	Sugar syrups, containing added flavouring or colouring matter	3.2%	2028.01.01
El Salvador	210690.1020	Beverage base of perfumed fruits	0%	2024.01.01
	210690.2000	Sugar syrups, containing added flavouring or colouring matter	4%	2029.01.01
Panama	210690.1020	Beverage base of perfumed fruits	1.6%	2025.01.01
	210690.2000	Sugar syrups, containing added flavouring or colouring matter	4.8%	2030.01.01
Honduras	210690.1020	Beverage base of perfumed fruits	0%	2023.01.01
	210690.2000	Sugar syrups, containing added flavouring or colouring matter	3.2%	2028.01.01
Nicaragua	210690.1020	Beverage base of perfumed fruits	0%	2023.01.01
	210690.2000	Sugar syrups, containing added flavouring or colouring matter	3.2%	2028.01.01
Guatemala	210690.1020	Beverage base of perfumed fruits	6.4%	2028.01.01
	210690.2000	Sugar syrups, containing added flavouring or colouring matter	6.4%	2028.01.01
Malaysia	210690.1020	Beverage base of perfumed fruits	0%	2016.07.26
	210690.2000	Sugar syrups, containing added flavouring or colouring matter	0%	2016.07.26

* Source : K-CA FTA text, FTA Korea

- ROK's food preparation market, particularly the beverage market, is highly mature.
  - In the food and beverage manufacturing industry, there is a seasonal difference with demand peaking in the summer.
  - In the ROK beverage market, soda drinks occupy the highest proportion due to the preferences for refreshing taste.
- Consumer preferences are shifting toward zero-calorie, zero-sugar beverages, while high-sugar products like juice are declining.
  - There is also a growing demand for health-focused ingredients in beverages, such as smoothies and vitamin water.

Zero sugar, zero calorie beverages

Zero sugar, zero calorie beverages

Market Insights

- For CA exporters targeting ROK food preparation market, leveraging the growing demand for zero-calories, health-focused beverages, fresh juice, and smoothies is key.
- The market presents challenges such as long logistics times, low product awareness, and strong local production ties, requiring exporters to differentiate their products effectively.
- Despite these challenges, K-CA FTA provides tariff-free access, offering opportunities to tap into a health-conscious consumer base and find potential market entry points.

Strengths

- Tariff-free access under K-CA FTA for CA exporters by 2023

Weaknesses

- Low market awareness
- High logistics costs

Opportunities

- Growing demand for health-oriented beverages

Threats

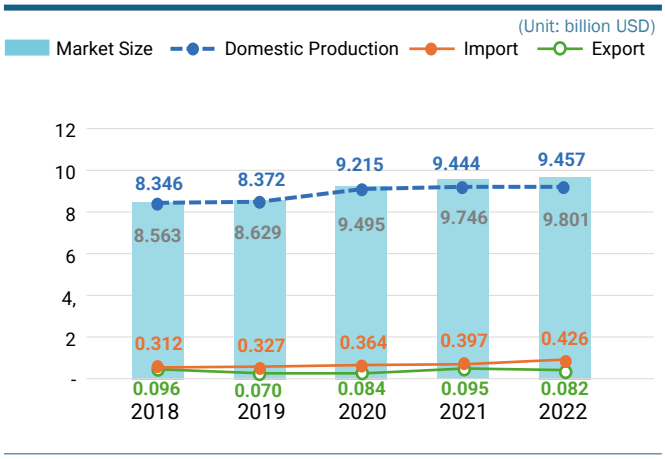
- High domestic production
- Strong local supplier relationships

ANIMAL FEED

Key Facts

- Korean animal feed market is expanding, driven by increased meat consumption and eco-friendly feed demand.
- The market value grew from 8.56 billion USD in 2018 to 9.8 billion USD in 2022, showing a 3.5% annual growth rate. The market is expected to continue expanding at a 3% annual growth rate in value from 2022 to 2027.
  - Imports are relatively small but have steadily increased, from 312 million USD in 2018 to 426 million USD in 2022, indicating a slow but growing reliance on imported feed.
- The USA, Australia, and China are the leading suppliers, together making up 76% of Korea's animal feed imports in 2022. The USA benefits from a 0% tariff rate due to the KOR-US FTA.

ROK animal feed market in value (2018-2022)



* Source : Author

Import volume of animal feed per country (2018-2022)

(Unit: Ton)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
USA	**299,579**	**345,254**	**438,010**	**403,971**	**333,593**
Australia	**104.743**	**93,451**	**107,076**	**119,734**	**172,085**
China	**106,888**	**108,911**	**122,579**	**105,141**	**89,563**
Vietnam	59,075	62,981	61,067	60,787	46,655
Spain	2,411	2,885	9,062	17,612	32,978
Philippines	17,654	13,834	13,080	11,393	16,052
Netherlands	10,131	13,840	13,548	16,068	13,233
Indonesia	7,698	8,910	9,910	10,086	10,790
Canada	1,484	2,945	4,679	12,849	9,939
India	2,509	2,836	3,122	5,980	8,597
Others	47,991	44,167	46,453	55,288	50,109
Total	660,164	700,014	828,587	818,908	783,593

* Source : Korean Statistical Office(K-STAT)

❖ Currently, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Nicaragua have 0% tariffs, providing duty-free access. El Salvador will reach a 0% tariff by 2024, Panama by 2025, and Guatemala by 2028.

Tariff on HS Code 230990 as of 2024

Country	HS Code	Product	Current rate(2024)	Elimination of custom duties
Costa Rica	230990.1010	For pig	0%	2019.11.01
	230990.1020	For fowl	0%	2019.11.01
	230990.1030	For fish	0%	2019.11.01
	230990.1040	For bovine	0%	2019.11.01
El Salvador	230990.1010	For pig	0%	2020.01.01
	230990.1020	For fowl	0%	2020.01.01
	230990.1030	For fish	0%	2020.01.01
	230990.1040	For bovine	0%	2020.01.01
Panama	230990.1010	For pig	0%	2021.03.01
	230990.1020	For fowl	0%	2021.03.01
	230990.1030	For fish	0%	2021.03.01
	230990.1040	For bovine	0%	2021.03.01
Honduras	230990.1010	For pig	0%	2019.10.01
	230990.1020	For fowl	0%	2019.10.01
	230990.1030	For fish	0%	2019.10.01
	230990.1040	For bovine	0%	2019.10.01
Nicaragua	230990.1010	For pig	0%	2019.10.01
	230990.1020	For fowl	0%	2019.10.01
	230990.1030	For fish	0%	2019.10.01
	230990.1040	For bovine	0%	2019.10.01
Guatemala	230990.1010	For pig	0%	-
	230990.1020	For fowl	0%	-
	230990.1030	For fish	0%	-
	230990.1040	For bovine	0%	-
USA	230990.1010	For pig	0%	2012.03.15
	230990.1020	For fowl	0%	2012.03.15
	230990.1030	For fish	0%	2012.03.15
	230990.1040	For bovine	0%	2012.03.15

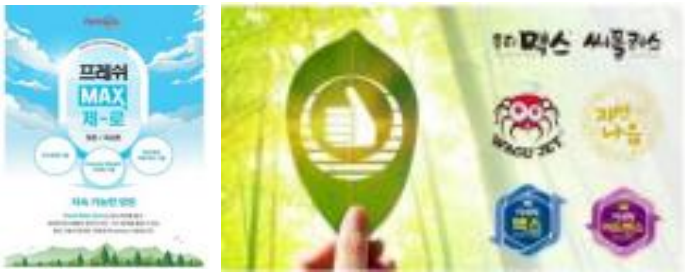
* Source : K-CA FTA text, FTA Korea

❖ With increased meat consumption, there is a growing demand for animal feed in Korea.

❖ Additionally, there is a shift towards eco-friendly and carbon-neutral feed, supported by government policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions from livestock farming.

Examples of Carbon Neutral Feed Advertisements

Low Methane, Low Protein Feed



Heavy Metal Reduction Feed

Market Insights

- For Central American exporters targeting the Korean animal feed market, leveraging the rising demand for meat and eco-friendly feed supported by carbon-neutral policies is crucial.
- The market presents challenges, including strict feed safety regulations, a dominant domestic production of 97%, and strong competition from major exporters like the USA and Australia.
- Despite these challenges, the growing demand for sustainable and innovative feed solutions provides opportunities for market entry and growth for Central American suppliers.

Strengths

- Steady market growth(3.5% annually)
- K-CA FTA provides tariff-free access

Weaknesses

- Vulnerability to grain price fluctuations and diseases
- High logistics and long shopping times

Opportunities

- Growing meat consumption increases feed demand
- Rising demand for eco-friendly feed due to carbon-neutral policies

Threats

- Stricter Korean regulations on feed safety
- Strong domestic production(97%) and competition from major exporters

REGULATIONS

Animal Feed Regulations

- CA exporters must ensure that their animal feed products meet Korean import requirements, including the registration of ingredients, submitting necessary documentation like the Certificate of Analysis (COA), and passing phytosanitary inspections for products containing plant ingredients.
- Since Korea has enhanced feed safety regulations under the Feed Management Act, CA exporters should be aware of these changes and prioritize the safety, quality, and traceability of their animal feed to align with Korea's high safety standards and consumer protection measures.

Certificate Of Analysis (COA) format/sample

COA Certificate of Analysis)

1. Product Name :
2. Ingredients(Whole Ingredients List)

Ingredients	%
A	
B	
...	
Total	100.0

3. Guaranteed Analysis

Nutrition Information / Analytical Constituents	%(other measure/unit)
Crude protein (min / not less than)	
Crude fibre (max / not more than)	
...	

4. Shape(Type) :
5. Usage(purpose, Target) :
6. Shelf Life(Expiration Date) :
7. Packing Unit :
8. Packaging Material :
9. Manufacturer :
10. Country of Origin :

Signed
Date

Information to be included in the Product label: Animal Feed

Product Name	
Ingredient Registration Number	
Name and form of feed	
Registered ingredient amount	
Name of raw materials used	
Use of feed	
Medical products for Animal (if added)	(Limited to mixed feed, can be omitted if not applicable)
Weight	
Country of Origin	
Date of manufacture	
Expiration date	
Name and address of import sales business	
Importing company name, address and contact information	
Returns and Exchanges Address	
Caution	
Other Information	

* Source: Korean Law Information Center (https://www.law.go.kr/)

Import Regulations and Requirements

- Food Inspection by MFDS: All four product categories (refined sugar, snacks, bread, and food preparations) must undergo a food safety inspection by the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS) before being imported into Korea. This applies to both the initial import and any subsequent imports.

- Registration Requirements: Importers must register the foreign manufacturing facility with MFDS, and registration must be completed before import. Additionally, the importer must hold a business registration for importing and selling food. If any ingredients could pose risks, such as those related to allergens or specific safety concerns, these need to be assessed before import.

- Required Documentation: For all products, the importer must submit documents that include 100% ingredient data and a detailed manufacturing process description. This documentation is essential for inspection and approval by MFDS.

Labeling and Safety Standards

- Korean Labeling Standards: Each product category requires Korean-language labels to be attached to the retail packaging. These labels must provide clear information about the product, including the product name, ingredient list, manufacturing date, and expiration date. The labeling is crucial for ensuring that the product meets Korean safety and transparency standards.

- Nutritional and Safety Information: For products like snacks, bread, and food preparations, the label must contain detailed nutritional information, such as sodium, carbohydrates, sugars, cholesterol, fat, and protein content. Additionally, if the product contains allergens, this must be clearly indicated on the label.

- Health and Quality Emphasis: Bread, snacks, and food preparations have a stronger focus on health and safety due to consumer demand for low-sugar, gluten-free, whole grain, and healthier options. The use of terms like "organic," "vegan," or "natural" is controlled and must adhere to specific regulations.

- Country of Origin and Packaging Standards: The country of origin must be indicated in Korean, Chinese characters, or English, and should state "MADE IN [Country Name]." For OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturing) products, the labeling must be placed on the front of the product or packaging in Korean. The label must be a minimum of 12-point font size.

Information to be included in the Product label: Bread

Product Name	
Food Type	
Net Contents and Calories	
Name and Amount of Food Ingredients	
Net Contents	
Country of Origin	
Expiration Date	
Foreign Food Facility	
Packaging Material	
Storage Method	
Name and Location of Import Sales Business	
Import Sales Business Contact Information	
Returns and Exchanges Information	

Labeling of allergens or a warning statement of the possibility of allergens added

* Source: Rohan Customs Advisory Office

Sample of product labeling

Nutritional Label

Nutrition Fact

Total amount 0.0g
000kcl

Total amount		% Daily value
Sodium	00mg	00%
Carbo-hydrate	00g	00%
Sugars	00g	
Lipid	00g	00%
Trans-fat	00g	
Saturated -fat	00g	00%
Cholesterol	00mg	00%
Protein	00g	00%

Percent Daily values are based on 2,000 kcal. Your daily values maybe higher or lower depend on calories needs.

Nutrition Fact

Total amount 0.0g
000kcl

Total amount		% Daily value
Sodium	00mg	00%
Carbo-hydrate	00g	00%
Sugars	00g	
Lipid	00g	00%
Trans-fat	00g	
Saturated -fat	00g	00%
Cholesterol	00mg	00%
Protein	00g	00%

Percent Daily values are based on 2,000 kcal. Your daily values maybe higher or lower depend on calories needs.

Total amount 00g(00g×Oserving) 1 serving (00g)

Calory	Sodulum	Carbo-hydrate	Sugars	Lipids	Trans-fat	Sarurated -fat	Cholesterol	Protein
000 kcal	00% 00mg	00% 00g	00% 00g	00% 00g	00g	00% 00g	00%	00% 00g

Percent Daily values are based on 2,000 kcal. Your daily values maybe higher or lower depend on calories needs.

Nutrition Fact

Total amount 0.0g
000kcl

Total amount		% Daily value	Total amount		% Daily value
Sodium	00mg	00%	Lipid	00mg	00%
Carbo-hydrate	00g	00%	Trans-fat	00g	00%
Sugars	00g	00%	Saturated -fat	00g	00%
Cholesterol	00mg	00%	Protein	00mg	00%

Percent Daily values are based on 2,000 kcal. Your daily values maybe higher or lower depend on calories needs.

* Source: Food Labeling System, The Ministry of Food and Drug Safety.

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